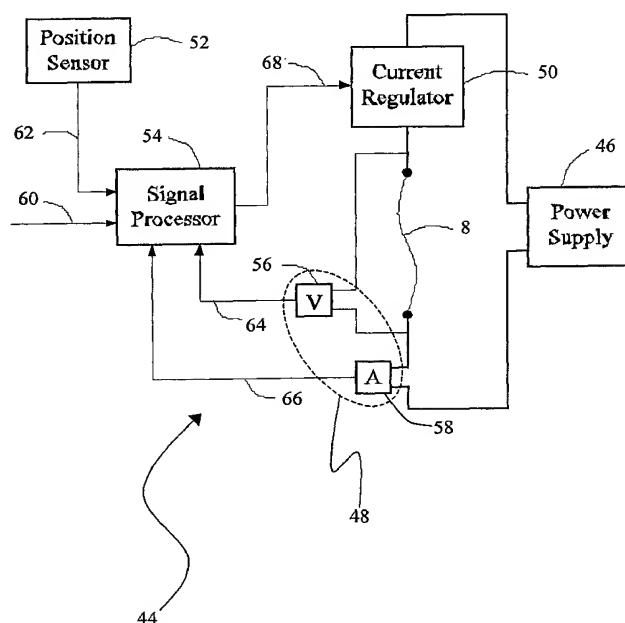




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(54) Title: A SHAPE MEMORY ALLOY ACTUATOR



(57) Abstract: A controller (44) for a SMA actuator (2) includes an electric power source (46) for applying an electric current through an SMA element (8), a sensor (48) to detect change in an electric resistance of the element (8); and a regulator (50) for controlling the magnitude of the applied electric current. The regulator (50) applies a first current above a safe limit current for the element (8) until a selected change in the electric resistance is detected and applies a second current less than the first current after the change is detected.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.